



Patent
082988-100017

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original): A valve assembly, comprising:
a replacement valve; and

a collapsible and expandable anchoring structure,

said anchoring structure being dimensioned to lodge inside a valve sinus.
2. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim 54 1, wherein said anchoring structure comprises a plurality of elliptical segments joined side by side to form junctures.
3. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim 55 2, wherein said junctures define longitudinal support post areas.
4. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim 56 3, wherein said longitudinal support post areas are configured to coincide with the sinus commissural posts.
5. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim 55 2, wherein said elliptical segments flare outwardly at the inflow and outflow ends.
6. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim 55 2, wherein said elliptical segments are joined by a double crimp.
7. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim 54 2, wherein said elliptical segment anchoring structure is made of a material with a high modulus of elasticity.

8. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~55~~ 2, wherein the outflow ends of said elliptical segments are removed and the distal ends of the junctures between elliptical segments are formed into prongs.

9. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~54~~ 2, wherein said elliptical segment anchoring structure is made from one piece of tubing.

10. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~61~~ 8, wherein said elliptical segment anchoring structure comprises a plurality of support posts.

11. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~62~~ 9, wherein said support posts comprise axial slots oriented toward the outflow end.

12. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~63~~ 10, wherein said support posts comprise a plurality of suture bores.

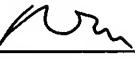
13. (Currently amended): The valve assembly of claim ~~62~~ 9, wherein said support posts are configured to coincide longitudinally with the sinus commissural posts.

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Respectfully submitted,

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